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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, September 3, 2015

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**IDOC Recycling Efforts Continue At Du Quoin State Fair**

The Du Quoin State Fair continues to “Go Green” thanks to the efforts of the Illinois Department of Corrections. More than 50 inmates are on the fairgrounds every day supporting green initiatives, recycling waste products, and providing daily maintenance services.

The Du Quoin State Fair, in partnership with IDOC, Illinois Correctional Industries (ICI), Illinois Department of Agriculture, and Big Dawg Disposal Service has created a comprehensive recycling program this year. Work crews collect cardboard, wooden pallets, and cooking oil during the fair and ship them off to Menard Correctional Center where they are further sorted, bailed and sent to designated recycling centers.

ICI has provided the fairgrounds with recycling containers, which were made by inmate workers. Crews collect the trash that is generated during the fair and separate it from aluminum cans, plastic, and paper. They’ve already filled one semi-trailer with recyclable materials and are well on the way to filling a second one.

“We are committed to the success of this project,” said Jason Henton, superintendent of the IDOC Du Quoin Impact Incarceration Program. “Local residents, vendors, and state employees who work at the fair have shown great interest in these efforts and in building a culture of sustainability.”

ICI has long been recognized at state and national levels for leadership in developing sustainability initiatives and for implementing sustainable best practices into daily operations. The multifaceted initiative saves taxpayer dollars, creates offender vocational and job training opportunities and reduces environmental impacts of IDOC operations. An important aspect of all ICI programming is the vocational opportunities provided to assigned offenders. Those working in the program will be provided with documented job training experience that will supply them with a skillset needed to pursue employment.

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